

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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CONTACT: JOE DALTON

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(781)396-2900

REP. MARKEY JOINED SEN. KENNEDY, GOV. ROMNEY ON TRIP TO WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO TO PRESENT HANSCOM EXPANSION PLAN

MEDFORD, MA – U.S. Representative Edward J. Markey (D-Malden) on Monday morning joined Senator Edward M. Kennedy and Governor Mitt Romney and members of the state's congressional delegation on a trip to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio to meet with General Gregory S. Martin, Commander of the Air Force Materiel Command, and other senior U.S. Air Force officials to discuss the recently announced plans to accommodate substantial additional mission at Hanscom Air Force Base if the U.S. Air Force recommends such a move. Rep. Markey represents Lexington and Lincoln, two of the four communities surrounding Hanscom (Bedford and Concord are the others).

Rep. Markey, dean of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation said, "Monday's visit to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base offered our delegation an audience with senior U.S. Air Force officials in the Air Force Materiel Command – the command structure for Hanscom AFB, MA. Our message had a "Field of Dreams" quality to it, with a twist; we said essentially, "If they come, we will build it." The State of Massachusetts, with the full support of the entire congressional delegation and the strong support of the local communities and the businesses surrounding Hanscom, is putting a very enticing offer in front of the U.S. Air Force. Hanscom AFB can accommodate 1.25 million square feet of new research and development capacity in the heart of the greatest technology cluster in the country. If the U.S. Air Force decides to bring new mission to Hanscom, then Massachusetts will provide the buildings and the infrastructure improvements to accommodate the new mission, and bring 4,000 new jobs here in the process."

"General Martin told us he thought we presented an exciting plan," said Senator Kennedy. "We made the case that Massachusetts, with its leading role in high-technology research and its military applications, is the ideal home for the 21st Century missions of the Air Force. Hanscom's expansion will help the Defense Department to meet its future strategic needs more effectively, and with significant cost savings for the Department."

"We face a choice: Hanscom can either grow or it can disappear," said Governor Mitt Romney. "This proposed expansion represents an extraordinary investment by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to turn Hanscom into a premier center for military technology. It will create thousands of new jobs and will ensure that Hanscom is around for many, many years to come."

Rep. Markey concluded, “The entire delegation has been working together with Senators Kennedy and Kerry and Governor Romney and his administration for about a year now to ensure that Hanscom Air Force Base and the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick are in the strongest possible position as we prepare for the 2005 Round of Base Realignment and Closure Commission deliberations.”

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